

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Hulse, Pete Jones, Alex Gerrard, Hugh Farey, Geoff Hancock, Massie Piggott (7.25pm)

In attendance: Vicky Hancock Clerk, two local residents, Ward Councillor Hulse (7.20pm) PCSO Sue Berrett (7.20pm)

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Item 7.4.1, Cllr Hancock signed the book accordingly.
3. **To consider the minutes of the previous meetings:**
 - 3.1 Parish Council Meeting 29th June 2022. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and these were signed by the chairman.
 - 3.2 Extra-ordinary meeting 20th July 2022. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and these were signed by the chairman.
4. **Policy & Procedure** Council received the resignation of Cllr Gwynn, representing Grendon Bishop, on 21st July 2022. Councillors expressed their thanks for her contribution as a councillor for over 9 years. It was **AGREED** to send a card and flowers as token of appreciation. Clerk to organise. Clerk informed Elections at Herefordshire Council and a Notice of Vacancy for Grendon Bishop had been published. The notice period ends on 1st September and if there have not been a request from 10 residents for an election the council is required to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. The co-option of a councillor for Grendon Bishop was **AGREED**.
5. **Open Session**
 - 5.1 Mr & Mrs D Barrett of Noakes Farm Riding Centre expressed their concerns over the number of accidents and near misses caused by the speed of vehicles coming from Bromyard on the A44 not heeding the corners or the access to their farm. The drive, accessed from the A44, is to a popular business and several residential properties. The most recent accident saw a vehicle written off having been hit from behind as they were waiting to turn. Fortunately, there were no major injuries but a very distressed passenger who was arriving to attend an RDA riding session. After discussion it was agreed that the height of the hedge on the opposite side of the road impedes visibility making it difficult to see stationary traffic waiting to turn into Noakes. Ward Cllr Harrington agreed to contact the owners of the land (Herefordshire Nature Trust) on behalf of the council regarding riparian responsibilities. PCSO Sue Berrett also agreed to contact Ian Connolly West Mercia Traffic Manager Advisor. The Clerk reported that there had been an attempted burglary in Bredenbury which has been reported to the police and there is an incident number. A reminder to everyone to be extra vigilant. It has been noted that the pavements are getting very difficult to walk along particularly for families with young children, walkers with dogs and visitors. The pavement from the footpath sign after the Old Post Office and the village hall has lost about a third of its actual width due to weeds and debris as has the pavement from Grendon Firs to the Three Pines. Discussion followed regarding a working party. It was agreed that this will be followed up but no specific

arrangements put in place.

5.2 Ward Cllr Harrington gave a brief report.

- Herefordshire Council are still working on improving Children's Services. There are new Heads of Service in place and there has been another Ofsted inspection.
- Hoping to launch 'Warm Banks' initiative in market towns and larger villages to help with providing space for residents struggling to heat their own homes.
- Leominster is starting their work in the town as part of the Heritage Action Zone.

Cllr Farey commented he had not had any response from Oliver Kaye re: area TPOs in Bredenbury. Cllr Hulse also commented that we were still waiting for a response from Cllr Harvey and Cllr James regarding the joint letter sent on behalf of both Bredenbury Group and Llangarron Parish Councils expressing concerns regarding this consultation and the threat to existing Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Harrington to look into these.

6. Budget Monitoring Clerk shared the August budget monitoring sheet. (Appendix i) Noted and signed by the Chairman.

7. Finance

7.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to July 1st 2022. Closing balance £12,263.31. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones. The Clerk shared the bank statement to 1st August 2022. Closing balance £11,902.00. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones.

7.2 Clerk shared the Bank Control Accounts 1st June & 1st July which detailed payments and receipts to date. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones.

7.3 Payments already made were noted:

- 7.3.1 Autela Payroll Service Q1 £64.02
- 7.3.2 I P Culley Place Shaping Consultation £75.00
- 7.3.3 J Jones Lengthsman Services £28.00
- 7.3.4 Business Services @ CAS Ltd. Insurance renewal 2022-23 £161.44 (The Clerk reminded the councillors we were coming to the end of the 3 year agreement with CAS and the fixed premium). The Insurance Policy was accepted with no changes from 2021-22.

7.4 **It was RESOLVED** to agree the following payment:

- 7.4.1 Clerk's August Salary and note assessment report re: Work Place Pension

7.5 Updating bank signatories. It was agreed to remove Cllr Gwynn as a bank signatory. Clerk to complete this. It was **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Pete Jones as replacement bank signatory. Clerk to initiate procedure with NatWest bank and forward necessary documents to Cllr Jones. To confirm bank signatories: Cllr John Hulse, Cllr Geoff Hancock, Cllr Pete Jones.

7.6 External Auditor 2022-23 until 2026-2027. We have received notification of the central auditor appointment arrangements. We are now given the opportunity to opt out of this central scheme. The clerk advised council that it would be unwise to opt out as we would have to find our own external auditor and comply with a great deal of legislation. It was **AGREED** to opt-in therefore no action is required.

8. Planning We received communication from a local resident regarding a Solar Farm proposal in a neighbouring village (P220818/EIA). As this is an administrative formality we have not had any notification from Herefordshire Council at this stage. Hypothetically, the only concern may be additional traffic on Rowden Lane during construction if this were to go ahead. Cllr Harrington commented that there may be an option to ask for construction traffic to be prohibited from using

Rowden Lane as a condition of any planning consent. It was agreed that we should wait for an official request to comment on this proposal in order to make this request.

9. Local Plan

Council responded to the Place Shaping Consultation as part of the Herefordshire Local Plan and councillors had all received the draft response compiled by Ian Culley. Cllr Hulse commented that unlike earlier stages, there has been no official feedback regarding this stage of the consultation.

10. Lengthsman

There has been a positive response to the maintenance of the verge opposite the Three Pines garage. It was **AGREED** to continue at least two more cuts into the autumn. If there are any reports of work to be done by the lengthsman contact to be made via the clerk.

11. Road Safety

11.1 PCSO Sue Berrett has forwarded to Traffic Management Plan to Ian Connolly.

11.2 The Chairman has written to the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, regarding the Traffic Management Plan on the A44 through Bredenbury. He outlined the work that has been completed and also asking for any support for the initiatives and inviting him to visit Bredenbury.

11.3 A response has been made to a local resident regarding the number of agricultural vehicles on Rowden Lane. He asked for a contact at Herefordshire Council to express his concerns and has been given the relevant details.

11.4 Traffic Management Group – responses to the Traffic Management Plan are still being received. Generally very supportive of the proposals with the one exception regarding the removal of the centre line as Bredenbury is prone to extremes of weather. Responses to be collated at a later date.

11.5 Village Safety Initiative The clerk received a response from Tracy Morriss regarding this. There has not been any development as there was an overwhelming response to this offer.

11.6 Members of the Traffic Management Group to meet with Fiona Miles on Monday 12th September to discuss the cultivation licence for the planters.

11.7 Clerk asked for council to agree the purchase of the planters subject to receiving the cultivation licence. It was agreed to a budget of £2000 to include purchasing and installation.

12. Village Hall

Building regs have been applied for by the Parish Hall Committee. Cllr Hulse questioned the 100% increase in the cost of these and asked if there was any reduction for charities. Cllr Harrington to look into this.

13. Correspondence

Reducing Carbon, Together. An event for Parish Councils to look at practical solutions to reduce carbon in their parish. Two representatives to attend the zoom meeting. Cllr Jones & Cllr Piggott. Clerk to register councillors for this event.

14. Items for the next meeting

- Councillor vacancy
- Local Plan Feedback
- Road Safety
- Traffic Management Group (TMG) feedback
- Date for Finance Working Group Budget Recommendations 2023-24

15. Dates of next meetings agreed:

Wednesday 28th September 2022 @ 7pm

Wednesday 26th October 2022 @ 7pm

Wednesday 30th November 2022 @ 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.44pm